

Lin, Chen Are War's 'Devils'

By Chalmers M. Roberts
Washington Post Staff Writer

Maj. Gen. Jerry D. Page of the Air Force Systems Command flew down to Miami Beach last week to talk about "new dimensions of

News Analysis

deterrence" and wound up discussing Lin Piao.

Such is the extent to which American officials

have seized upon the harsh words from Peking. Every great conflict needs a devil to personalize it and the United States has found a new one, indeed two of them.

Secretary of State Dean Rusk began it by describing Lin's manifesto as akin to Hitler's Mein Kampf. Deputy Secretary of Defense Cyrus Vance, roving Ambassador W. Averell Harriman, Gen. Harold K. Johnson, the Army's Chief of Staff, and others have now followed the Rusk lead.

Some for Chen Yi

Lin, the Communist Chinese Defense Minister, is getting most of the attention. But Foreign Minister Chen Yi has had some devil notices, too. Both are members of the ruling Politburo, headed by Mao Tse-tung, whose famous remark that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun" was quoted by Lin.

In his Sept. 2 manifesto, Lin advanced the dogma that the "countryside" of Asia, Africa and Latin America would in time surround the "city" of North America and Western Europe; in short, Peking's formula for world triumph.

Raised the Ante

Chen made it into the new American pantheon of Communist devils by his Sept. 29 press conference. It was then that he raised the ante for China's admission to the United Nations by declaring that the world organization first would have to "rectify its mistakes and undergo a thorough reorganization and reform" as well as wash out its condemnation of China for its role in the Korean War.

Chen's remarks have come in handy for American officials busy trying to stem the drive to admit Red China into the United Nations, on which debate is due to begin on Monday. U.S. Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg used Lin's words in

Cast in the Role By Harsh Words

his maiden U.N. speech to point up the danger lurking behind the bamboo curtain.

Both Circulated

Both documents have been circulated to numerous diplomats at the U.N. in advance of the vote on Peking's admission.

About the only top Administration official so far to neglect citing the new devils is President Johnson himself. And he has been laid up.

Mr. Johnson has bridled at the epithet of "emperor" used by the Chinese to describe him. His reaction to the more current title of "the new Hitler" can readily be imagined. The need for devils, of course, is not exclusive with the United States.

However, useful Administration leaders may find the

words of Lin and Chen to be at the moment, many serious students of diplomacy in and out of the Government are unhappy over the current practice.

They are unhappy at the use for political warfare of Nikita Khrushchev's famous "we will bury you" remark. Time and altered circumstances tended to wash that one out, and Khrushchev himself has departed the scene.

In the case of China, however, the repeated use of Lin and Chen digs even deeper the gulf between the two great powers on opposite sides of the Pacific, a gulf which someday will somehow have to be bridged if war is to be avoided.

Such is the classic problem of word slinging in political warfare.